## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02688 290751Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W

-----290756Z 020034 /22

P R 290709Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1801 USDOC WASHDC DHUD WASHDC PRIORITY

**UNCLAS TEHRAN 2688** 

USDOC FOR CAGNE

HUD FOR OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS/ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USIRJC ECRE IR

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: IMPERIAL GUARD HOUSING PROJECT

**REF TEHRAN 2461** 

1. FURTHER TO INFORMATION PROVIDED REFTEL ON IMPERIAL GUARD PROJECT, RUMOR IS THAT FRENCH CONSORTIUM WHOSE EARLIER BID WAS REJECTED MAY ATTEMPT TO REBID PORTION FOR WHICH DILLON HAS LETTER OF INTENT. IN ABSENCE OF MOST OF PRINCIPALS INVOLVED IN AWARD PROCESS FOR NOW-RUZ HOLIDAYS, THIS RUMOR CANNOT BE CONFIRMED UNTIL AFTER APRIL 3, WHEN PRESUMABLY NEGOTIATIONS WITH DILLON WILL BE RESUMED.

2. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH ATTEMPTING TO CUT OUT DILLON AT THIS STAGE WITH TWO OF DILLON ASSOCIATES. ON DILLON'S RETURN TO IRAN, REPORTEDLY APRIL 2 OR 3, WE WILL CONSULT AND DETERMINE WHAT ADDITIONAL STEPS, IF ANY, EMBASSY MIGHT TAKE. AS CITED IN PARA 1, HOLIDAY PERIOD CONTINUING THROUGH APRIL 2 PRECLUDES ANY MEANINGFUL REPRESENTATIONS THIS WEEK.

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3. FYI: FRENCH GROUPS REPORTEDLY BID EVERY POSSIBLE PERMUTATION AND COMBINATION OF FOUR-LOCATION PROJECT UNLIKE OTHER GROUPS WHICH BID SPECIFIC PORTION OF PROJECT. FRENCH BUSINESS IN TEHRAN, ACTIVELY ABETTED BY A VERY LARGE COMMERCIAL STAFF IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN TEHRAN, IS EXTREMELY AND INCREASINGLY AGGRESSIVE. TO DATE, THIS AGGRESSIVE COMMERCIAL POSTURE HAS NOT GENERALLY GARNERED RESULTS

COMMENSURATE WITH THE AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY AND ENERGY INVOLVED. WE SHOULD NOTE THAT THE FRENCH ALONG WITH SOME APPROXIMATELY FORTY OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO HAVE TRADE PROTOCOLS SIMILAR TO THE USIRJC. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NOTWITHSTANDING A LETTER OF INTENT, DILLON COULD BE CUT OUT. AT BEST, IF THE FRENCH ARE PERMITTED TO RESUBMIT, THEIR BID WILL BE USED AS A LEVER TO LOWER DILLON'S PRICE (A TACTIC EXPERTLY AND FREQUENTLY PRACTICED IN IRAN).

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## Message Attributes

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